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of the driven donkeys (XXII) is a delight to the eye, and a revelation to the uninitiated of the power and sincerity of the Egyptian draughtsman and sculptor in the Old Kingdom (2980–2475 B. C.). These mastaba reliefs, as here reproduced, are an epitome of the material, and to some extent of the intellectual life, of the early Nile-dwellers, as they loved to carry it into the tomb and depict it in exquisite painted reliefs upon the walls there. In this tomb the colors are still fresh, and these have been reproduced with beauty and fidelity, for example, in the superb colored plate of the fishermen drawing in the net (XVI). There are indeed few examples of Old Kingdom colored relief like this accessible in published form.

Sculpture in the round from this early age is represented by a number of notable examples, especially the two archaic statues (III and IV) and the fine pair of Mertityotes. The colored specimens of archaic pottery (Plate II) are welcome additions to the limited amount of such material now in our libraries; though the genuineness of one or two examples may be questionable. A massive granite sarcophagus and a large rotund stone vessel round out this section on the Old Kingdom.

The brief and resolutely modest text, while giving all that is necessary, allows the splendid plates to speak for themselves. We have already referred to the supplementary plans, sketches, and inscriptions contained in the text. This part of the work is conscientiously done, and aims to give the reader the source or provenience of each monument as far as known, its material, dimensions, and the like, as well as all inscriptions not visible in the plates, together with a complete bibliography. The comments on the prehistoric pottery and its division into classes are valuable and important, while the careful bibliography is very useful.

As a whole, this admirable folio, with its text, may be regarded as a model of what the future museum publication should be. I have purposely abstained from technical discussion here, as this would carry us beyond the limits, generally set by the editors themselves. If I had any criticism to make on a piece of work so well done, it would be to urge the editors in the future sections of the publication to furnish more plates with facsimile copies of the inscriptions, which may not everywhere be quite clear in the collotypes. Finally I can only felicitate the editors on so successful an inauguration of the splendid series of folios, which will enable every library and museum to possess the noble Leyden collection in so worthy a form.

JAMES HENRY BREASTED

CHAMPOLLION ¹

One of the greatest achievements of the nineteenth century was the deciphering of the hieroglyphic. After the discovery of the Rosetta Stone in 1799 the attempts to gain a reading knowledge of the long-lost writing

¹ CHAMPOLLION: SEIN LEBEN UND SEIN WERK. Von H. Hartleben. Mit einem Titelbild, einer Tafel und 19 in den Text gedruckten Abbildungen. Berlin: *Weidmann'sche Buchhandlung*, 1906. 2 vols.; Vol. I, xxxi+593 pages; Vol. II, 636 pages. M. 30.

of Egypt were so various and divergent that the feat of Jean François Champollion was one of unique significance. Indeed, the final step which brought him his ultimate triumph involved the abandonment of so much of even *his own* former work that it was not less epoch-making for himself than for the entire learned world. By a strange and ironical fate the life of this gifted man, as well as his scientific writings, is known to us in but the scantiest fragments. Even Egyptologists themselves have rarely known of more than the final steps of the process by which Champollion achieved the decipherment. His earlier studies and his first long-continued, but baffled attempts at a system of decipherment are known even in a general way to but very few. What is true of his scientific career is more true of the man Champollion. Of his life and character we have simply nothing. The *man* Champollion was long since dead, and the *scholar* Champollion is very little better known than the man.

It would be interesting, if space permitted, to take up the series of unhappy accidents and the long neglect which finally enveloped the life of Champollion in complete oblivion. It is, to say the least, remarkable that he found no biographer in France. It is the land of Lepsius, the second Champollion of Egyptology, which has finally furnished us a life of the great decipherer which, as the authoress herself has justly characterized it, means nothing less than the actual resurrection of a great genius. Fräulein H. Hartleben, perceiving the evil destiny which had befallen Champollion, undertook the writing of his life, and began her work in 1896. Visits to Vif where live the surviving relatives and descendants of Champollion, and to Grenoble so closely associated with his career, intercourse with the modern academicians of France, access to all of Champollion's surviving papers, and a loyal devotion to her task, have enabled Fräulein Hartleben to produce a remarkable biography. A mere list of the chapter headings will indicate what she has undertaken.

- Kap. I. Das Kind. (Frühling 1790–1801.)
- Kap. II. Der Schüler. (März 1801—Anfang September 1807.)
- Kap. III. Der Student. (Anfang September 1807—Mitte Oktober 1809.)
- Kap. IV. Der Geschichtspräsident und Politiker. (15. Oktober 1809—20. März 1816.)
- Kap. V. Der Verbannte. (Ende März 1816—Mitte Oktober 1817.)
- Kap. VI. Der Pädagoge und Volksfreund. (Oktober 1817—Juli 1821.)
- Kap. VII. Entzifferer. (20. Juli 1821—25. Mai 1824.)
- Kap. VIII. Italien. (25. Mai 1824—30. Oktober 1826.)
- Kap. IX. Der Konservator des ägyptischen Museums. (31. Oktober 1826—31. Juli 1828.)
- Kap. X. Aegypten. (31. Juli. 1828—24. Dezember 1829.)
- Kap. XI. Der Professor der Aegyptologie. (24. Dezember 1829—21. August 1831.)
- Kap. XII. Das Ende. (21. August 1831—März 1832.)

An introduction by G. Maspero and another by Eduard Meyer are themselves sufficient guarantee for the value and high character of the biography. Not only do we find the life of Champollion depicted from

childhood in a pleasing and picturesque style, but his extensive relations with the scholars of his time give us a very full and interesting picture of the learned world of the revolutionary age of France. There is probably no other source in which just such a picture of the academic circles involved in the political disturbances of this turbulent period is so graphically depicted as in *Fräulein Hartleben's* interesting pages. I hope to be able to offer elsewhere an adequate discussion of all this, together with some estimate of the vast amount of labor which *Fräulein Hartleben* has expended upon the enormous mass of sources, documentary and otherwise, through which her undertaking obliged her to push her way. I can do no more in the space here available than heartily to commend the reading of these two volumes to all modern orientalists; and not alone to them, but to every cultivated mind. Indeed, the pages of this biography will be found of interest to any person who has given any time whatever to consideration of the progress of human learning and the story of mankind from the earliest times. Those of us whose daily task it is to delve in the dust of lost centuries, with no other thought of reward than that of the results to be obtained, will find inspiration in these pages. No one can read them, or follow Champollion through his struggles with dishonest and hostile contemporaries—struggles which were ended only by his death—without being moved by the indefatigable spirit with which he kept to his task. In the present writer's opinion, a knowledge of all this will not be the least claim of these volumes upon our time and gratitude. Again when we discern how small and petty and often contemptible the polemic under which Champollion suffered now appears, after the lapse of nearly a century, the reading of these pages cannot but arouse a wholesome abhorrence of the unhappy controversies which still trouble oriental science. And this also is another cause of gratitude for the labor expended on these volumes.

JAMES H. BREASTED